PAN AMERICAN fisherman

ESTABLISHED 1947

In This Issue . . .

- ★ National Tuna Week October 31 to November 9
- ★ The Japanese Import Situation

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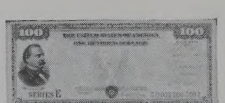

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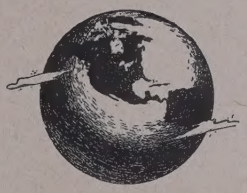

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Are Directed to the Improvement and Prosperity

of the Tuna Industry

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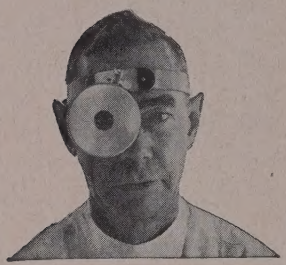

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PAN AMERICAN fisherman

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North Pacific Fisheries Commission Meets

The acute situation in the salmon fisheries of the North Pacific during the 1957 season, when the Japanese took a postwar record catch of red salmon on the high seas while the American salmon run was extremely disappointing, provided a serious background for examination of preliminary reports on scientific researches by the American Section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission at meetings in Seattle last month.

Scientific data collected during the year will be pooled with that gathered by Canada and Japan for study and action by the entire Commission at its annual meeting in Vancouver, B. C., early in November.

Some of the significant points indicated by preliminary research reports were reported by the Fish and Wildlife Service Market News Section as follows:

"1. Tagging, carried out by three vessels along the entire Aleutian Chain is still under way, but about 15,000 tags have been affixed this year. All returns to date from the 1956 and 1957 red salmon tagging were recovered in North American streams or in the area of the Japanese high-seas fishery.

"The new pink salmon tags returned to date were all recovered west of the area of tagging, and none from American streams. Tagged chums were recovered both in Asian and American streams.

"2. Studies of the 1957 distribution of salmon in the sea showed a heavy concentration north of the Aleutians and slightly west of the provisional abstention line. It was in this area, not heavily fished in previous seasons, that the Japanese made very large catches in a short period in June.

"3. Racial studies based on body measurements, blood types, associated organisms, and scale structure are successfully distinguishing between salmon of Asian and American origin. These studies are based on many thousands of samples collected from known locations on the high seas and both sides of the Pacific Basin and involve great numbers of precise scientific tests and examinations.

"4. Unusual net marks on red salmon entering the Bristol Bay fishery in 1957 were studied by the research staff. Although the evidence was not conclusive, there are indications that these marks were made by gill nets of a smaller mesh size than those used by American fishermen."

The U.S. Commissioners requested their research staff to complete their analysis of the data for the international meeting, and particularly to examine the degree to which it may show the westerly distribution of stocks of salmon of North American origin in the high seas.

Japanese Tuna Fleet

The Japanese "Special Law," in effect from July 1953 to July 1955, was designed to modernize the tuna fishing fleet and to encourage the building of larger vessels capable of engaging in the distant-water tuna fisheries, and to lessen the concentration of fishing activities in coastal waters. Under the provisions of this law, the tuna fleet increased considerably, both in terms of the number of vessels and the individual size of the vessels. The gross tonnage increased about 67 percent — from 108,319 at the end of 1952 to 176,243 gross tons by Dec. 31, 1955. At the end of 1955, there were 1,895 vessels registered for the tuna fishery as compared with 1,590 at the end of 1952.

In 1955 new and revised regulations went into effect which prohibited the licensing of new tuna vessels, but permitted the replacement of old vessels under more restrictive conditions. The present fleet is considered adequate to catch the maximum consistent with current market conditions.

The restrictive regulations are essentially as follows: In the case of high-seas tuna vessels (over 100 gross tons) may be built upon decommissioning of vessels of lesser tonage and vessels over 240 gross tons may be built only upon decommissioning of an equal amount of tonnage. In the case of medium-size tuna vessels (under 100 gross tons), new vessels can be built under 100 gross tons upon decommissioning of lesser tonnages.

The Japanese Government at the present time assists the tuna fishing industry by extending to builders long-term credit (up to 60 percent of the cost) at relatively low interest rates and reinsuring 90 percent of the vessel insurance. Indications are that restrictions will be continued to insure that the present fleet is not increased. As of the end of 1956, the tuna fleet numbered 1,772 vessels, totaling 197,760 gross tons.

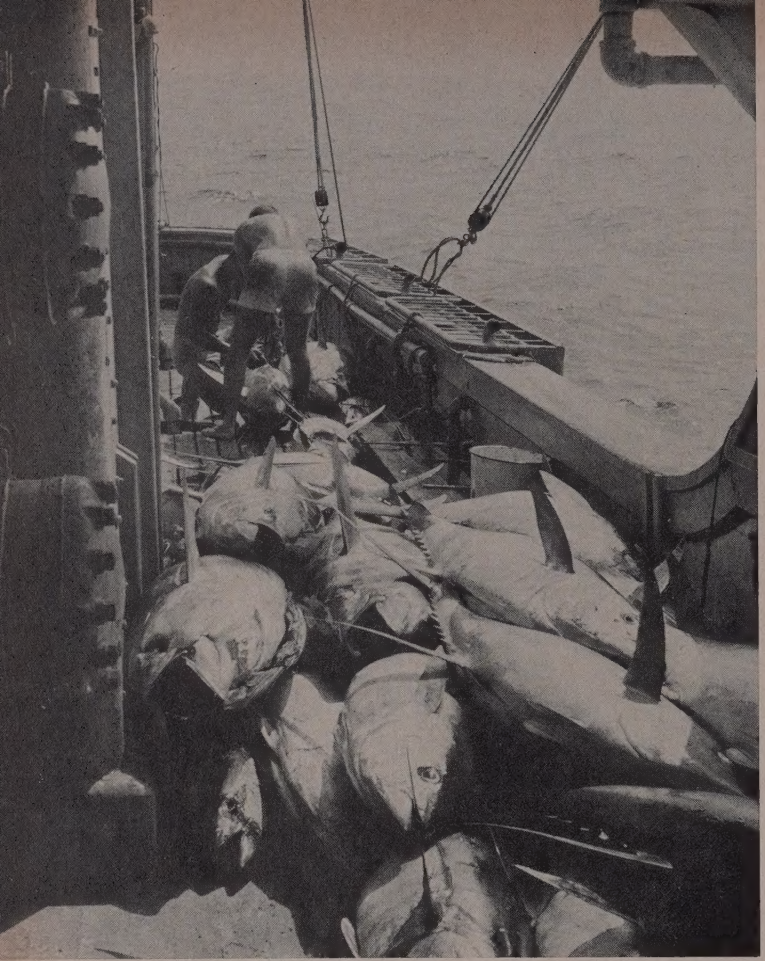
Underwater Observation Bucket

POFI scientists are perhaps the first in the world to use an entirely new method of attacking the problems of the tuna industry—direct observation of tuna from beneath the sea surface. It has been recognized by responsible scientists and industry members that development of more efficient methods to remove tuna from the sea must in part await a better understanding of tuna behavior.

In order to get directly at this problem, POFI scientists designed an observation "bucket" which is suspended from the *Charles H. Gilbert* about 8 feet below the surface of the sea near the stern of the vessel. A scientist climbs into the bucket, using an underwater breathing device, and sits in safety, if not comfort, while tuna are being chummed to the vessel. The present apparatus permits the investigator to remain underwater in the observation post at speeds up to about 6 knots. The whole program is still in the early stages of developing methods and techniques but appears to hold great promise. Underwater vision is good. In clear offshore water the observer can see for about 180 feet on a vertical and horizontal plane.

Numerous tuna schools were observed during preliminary trials with the apparatus, and incidental to developing techniques POFI has been able to make comparative observations on the behavior of tuna tagged by POFI dart tags and the type G tags developed in California.

Observations have dispelled the myth in the Hawaiian tuna fishery that the local anchovy is a successful tuna bait; because when thrown in the water it returns to the stern of the vessel, drawing the skipjack within fishing range. Quite the contrary, POFI found that the Hawaiian anchovy leave the vessel with all possible haste. This behavior pattern is followed when there are no skipjack in view and when there are skipjack actively feeding on them.



"Good at first . . . Bad later on"

THE FROZEN TUNA INDUSTRY

Its Status in Japan

Source:
Nikkan Suisan Tsushin Supplement No. 12 for July, 1957. Pages 28-36. Published by Suisan Tsushin Sha.

CURRENT events reveal many interesting topics on the frozen tuna industry. The first is that a great part of last year's losses on summer albacore was recovered this year because of the smooth progression of the exports of albacore (round).

The second story concerns the attempt of the frozen tuna industry to undertake adjustments in the production and exports of yellowfin which, unexpectedly, came against a brick wall in the form of the Skipjack and Tuna Fishery Association.

The Loin and Disk export problem is the third topic which, because of movements started in the United States, has suddenly come to the fore. The last topic concerns the dumping problem which is showing signs of flaring up again.

So many problems popping up in a short period of time may cause grave consequences in the future for the export freezing traders.

Let us summarize the characteristics in the "Good at first, bad later on" situation of the industry.

In mid-May when the actual summer albacore season began, port prices then fluctuated between $242 and $225 a ton. With total landings of 558 tons on May 11, prices dropped in one stride to $215 a ton. The freezers and canners did not look around for purchases or try to stockpile goods since they realized that fishing conditions were excellent and further large landings of summer albacore could be anticipated.

Albacore Sales and Prices

The canners, pushed by tremendous stockpiles of canned tuna in the U. S. found the market situation in Japan in a rapid decline . . . especially the market price for whitemeat which dropped to the level of lightmeat, thus making the outlook for the future uncertain. This also meant that prospects were not good for the exports of canned tuna in brine which forced business firms to make cheap sales as a matter of policy.

Moreover, medium and small packers had produced practically all of their quota for canned tuna in brine for this year, and with the exports of canned tuna in oil at a slump, it appeared as if there was no outlet to be had.

As for the freezers, with the losses incurred last year still fresh in their memories, all business firms adhered strictly to a moderate production policy; this policy was to make purchases only after its sale was made definite. Thus, the fish traders had to remain speechless on the mountains of summer albacore being piled up on the markets.

The landings of summer albacore increased daily, and proportionately the port prices continued to decline from $276 a ton in May to $128 in July. This means that prices at the end of the season dropped to less than half the price at the beginning of the season.

It was about the end of May when the price was around $202 a ton that freezing traders began to make purchases. This was not in the nature of a mad buying spree, but was only to secure spot goods for sales contracts. This go-slow policy proved success-

ful for it prevented a rise in port prices later on when carrying out large purchases because of the increase in sales contracts.

This year's entire landing of summer albacore is estimated around 40,000 tons, surpassing the 36,802 tons of last year, which was considered a good fishing year. The freezing traders, by their cautious approach, stopped making purchases at about 20,000 tons or only half of the total landings. This cautious plan did not come into existence because of artificial manipulations. It was caused by financial difficulties of the trade which saw no other way out.

This financial difficulty had still more harsh effects upon the canning people. In line with the tight money policy of the Japanese government, turnover of goods became more sluggish which made it more difficult for the canned tuna industry to operate; they could not purchase as they wished, but just watched the continuing drop in port prices.

Summer Albacore Profits

On the other hand, frozen albacore sales made sudden strides from the beginning of June. CRPA purchased a total of 6,700 tons which, in a single stroke pulled the stagnant industry together. StarKist also contracted for approximately 4,000 tons by mid-July, with B. C. packers of Canada purchasing about 2,000 tons. Westgate, previously passed as being anti-Japanese in its attitude, purchased 1,000 tons. Small and medium sized packers purchased 2,500 tons.

Thus about 20,000 tons of summer albacore was sold in the 3-month period of April to July. This was the estimated sales quantity for the 6-month period from April to September, showing how satisfactory exports went.

Even with conditions being so excellent, the sales price after May was pegged at the check price of $270 a ton FOB which is nothing to be proud of. Recently, instead of trying to raise the price, the business firms are trying not to go under the check price, which was disastrous many times.

The foreign parties observed the continuous decline in port prices and demanded to carry out transactions below $270 a ton FOB. Of course, to break this check price would be a violation of the Exports Control Law, but some circumvented this problem by manipulating Letters of Credit and cutting down the expense of freight rates.

How much of the losses incurred last year were they able to recover during this year's summer albacore boom? The answer varies for each individual trader, but the medium and small producers and those who did not commit anything rash last year all have practically recovered the loss in full. It is said that for the larger firms about half of the losses have been written off.

Upon looking at the balance accounts for this year, most business firms are smiling. As for the producers, it has given them time to take a breathing spell and to look over the situation at hand.

Export Restriction on Yellowfin

After the start of the fiscal year in April, arguments restricting the exports of yellowfin to the U. S. began to be studied concretely.

The first intention appeared to restrict direct exports to Italy. Then the Fishery Agency announced its license policy concerning Atlantic tuna operations which added some complications. Talk of restrictions on direct exports faded away and in its place a trend in the movement to tackle the main objective of restrictions to the U. S. gained momentum.

Until recently the exports of yellowfin to the U. S. were handled as dependent upon albacore exports . . . comparatively modest in character. However, the bigger exporting firms of yellowfin show strong tendencies to handle this product principally for its financial manipulations.

Also, being different from albacore, the greater percentage of exported yellowin (about 90%) is ship frozen goods.

Yellowfin is not only exported to the U. S. but it is also used extensively for domestic fresh goods. Yellowfin is also exported to Italy.

The larger tuna canners in the U. S. possess their own tuna fleets and do not have to depend on imports for their yellowfin material. Thus, exports of yellowfin to the U. S. are mainly being directed to the medium and small sized packers. These packers were able to perceive market conditions so at times there was a loss of equilibrium against the exporters.

Starting this year it appears that an export system of albacore will take shape. Assisted by the fact that the estimated catch was below expectation, port prices for 20 to 80 pound yellowfin came to an unheard of price of $296 a ton (ship frozen goods). Because the sales price was around $240-$250 a ton FOB, a loss on an average of $70 a ton was incurred. On top of this, spot goods were not available causing considerable non-fulfillment of contracts (indemnities had to be paid in such breach of contracts). This further spurred arguments for restrictions.

Key to the Solution

The basic outline for restrictive exports of yellowfin was practically settled during mid-June. An export allotment was established (30,000 tons annually) with the method of allotment entirely based on past showings and free allotments not recognized at all. Although somewhat hazy the plan was not to make these allotments individually but to fix only the total shipping quantities to be enforced.

At this point, however, an unforeseen incident broke out. The ship Freezers Section of the Skipjack and Tuna Fishery Association decided not to join the All Japan Freezers Assn. but continue their studies in the direction of "building up a separate organization for export business."

Those in the first place who were not too keen in carrying out the present problem of adjustments in the shipment of yellowfin, demanded and brought about the indefinite postponement of restrictions, concerning shipping quotas. Some wanted to brush aside the shipping quota and establish only an export quota. The Fishery Agency, up to this time, had agreed to establishing a shipping quota which was conditional upon the establishment of an export restriction.

Loin and Disk Exports to U.S.

During mid-June when trade circles were enjoying the excellent situation of albacore exports, preparations were steadily being made in the U.S. against the imports of Japanese loin and disk tuna.

With the prosperity of several thousand tons exported annually, the by-word was, "instead of exporting frozen round tuna, since we can add processing charges, it would be profitable for us and for U.S. packers by doing away with high labor costs." This meant to manufacture canned goods in the U.S. with cheap Japanese labor.

A very good story, but some would be hit hard. One of these being cannery workers in the U.S., and the other being the U.S. packers unable

(Continued on page 12)

The Japanese Import Situation

By W. M. CHAPMAN
Director of Research
American Tunaboat Association

ON another page of this issue appears a translation of an article published in the Nikkan Suisan Tusshin, a Tokyo trade publication, "The Frozen Tuna Industry."

The latter part on "Loin and Disk Exports to the United States" is of particular interest to every tuna fisherman and tuna cannery worker in the United States and every tuna canner in California.

In this section the Japanese set out plainly what their objective is: "Instead of exporting frozen round tuna, since we can add processing charges, it would be profitable for us and for United States packers by doing away with high labor costs. This meant to manufacture canned goods in the United States with cheap Japanese labor."

"Loins" are tuna which have been precooked and cleaned ready for canning. They represent about one third of the original weight of the fish. Accordingly, it is cheaper to ship these loins to the United States than it is round fish by more than one half.

The cheap cannery labor in Japan makes it possible to do the gutting, precooking and cleaning in Japan at far less than in the United States. Loins shipped here require a pack shaper, closing machine, and retorting to finish them off as canned tuna. More than half of the United States cannery labor here would be replaced by cheap Japanese labor if loins were used.

"Discs" are further processed. They have been precooked, cleaned and shaped in Japan. All that is required is to put the disc in a can, add salt and oil, seal the can and retort it. The process can be carried on in a garage. No elaborate cannery is needed in the United States. The cannery labor is Japanese and it is used and paid for in Japan.

The Japanese prefer to advance the manufacturing of imported tuna as far as possible in Japan. If they could send all of their tuna here in the canned form this would be their best wish because all of the labor used would be Japanese and the maximum dollar income for Japan would be gained.

If the Japanese send all their tuna canned into the United States, however, they fear that United States canners would join with U.S. cannery workers and fishermen in seeking legislation to restrain imports, and would be successful. Therefore, they limit canned tuna in oil exports to the United States to a small amount and keep their tuna canned in brine exports to the United States at reasonably stable levels of value and volume. Thus they have kept the canners calm and quiet.

The next best thing they can do is ship their tuna to this country as loins and discs. This will give them almost as much net dollar income from tuna sales as canned tuna would because they do not have to import the materials for tin plate or oil. However, most tuna cannery labor in the United States will be replaced by Japanese labor and the United States cannery workers will join the U.S. tuna fishermen in seeking legislation to restrain imports, and they might be successful.

The answer to this problem, they have believed, is to ship no tuna loins and discs to California. Ninety per cent of the tuna cannery workers in this country are in California and what they do not see they do not worry about. Therefore, the Japanese prohibited sending loins and discs to California canners. Since they have monopolistic control of the export tuna trade through two cartels operating under the direction of the Japanese Government they can control such things under law.

They sent their loins and discs to canneries in the Pacific Northwest that are primarily salmon canners, to canners in Maryland that are primarily fruit canners, to canners in Maine that are primarily sardine canners, and to Puerto Rico where Van Camp has taken over a tuna cannery that was going broke. Thus everyone was happy. As the Japanese report, these canners were equipping themselves to handle Japanese loins and discs on a large scale and next year were scheduled to go into full operation.

But the Japanese made a mistake. In 1956 they had a big albacore year. They misjudged the albacore market in the United States and held albacore in frozen storage all summer and fall waiting for the market there to develop. It did not do so. Finally they had to dump about 14,000 tons of frozen albacore on this market at more than $100 per ton less than their cost of production. This led to a softening of the canned tuna market here, to a glut of the frozen tuna market here, and finally resulted in the ex-vessel price of albacore getting down to as low as $120 per ton during the height of this summer's albacore run in Japan, which peaks in June and ends early in July.

Under the low price, glut conditions that resulted in the Japanese frozen tuna business this summer as a result of these things plus a heavy run of albacore, the Japanees tuna cartels made another serious blunder. They cut the loin and disc prices by $100 and $150 per ton respectively. This gave the Northwest, Eastern, and Puerto Rican canners such a tremendous advantage that the California canners raised a howl. The Japanese cartels retreated for the time being and raised the price back to the old level so as not to damage the sale of round albacore and tuna to California canners.

The greater mistake in all of this, however, on the part of the Japanese tuna cartels was dropping temporarily the screen which had shielded their designs and operations with respect to the American tuna markets. In doing this they did these things:

1. Demonstrated to United States Government officials that the Japanese tuna cartels were capable of operating, and did operate, in this market as a monopoly able to restrain trade to their own advantage and to the disadvantage of the American tuna industry and the American consumer.

2. Demonstrated to American tuna cannery workers that the Japanese

plans to supplant their jobs with Japanese labor were well advanced and almost capable of being put into effect now.

3. Demonstrated to the canners of tuna in California, especially those whose principal sales were in their own advertised brands that their days as principal factors in the American tuna trade were numbered unless some control could be exerted over the activities of the Japanese tuna monopoly in this market.

4. Demonstrated to United States tuna fishermen what they already knew to be the case, that they were in a fight to the death to maintain their ability to earn a living in this trade against the power of the Japanese tuna monopoly to restrain and manipulate the trade in tuna in the United States until one section after another of the United States fishery was disposed of as a competitive factor. *

Tuna in Australia

A survey of the commercial resources in the seas off the Northwest and the Kimberly coast of Australia show that at least two species of tuna occur in great quantities. The survey, under way for several years, found that northern bluefin tuna and mackerel or little tuna occur over a considerable area off these coasts. Other species of tuna, namely, yellowfin, striped tuna, and dogtooth tuna are found in lesser quantities.

The fishermen in the above areas are interested in exploiting the tuna resources if a market could be found in the United States. If a market could be found, a modern tuna clipper would be purchased with suitable facilities to freeze the catch for export, according to a U.S. Embassy dispatch from Perth.

New Type Shrimp Cannery in Alaska

A new shrimp canning operation in Wrangell, Alaska, which was started in July 1957 introduces two new developments into the Alaskan industry. For the first time, Alaska shrimp are being picked by machine rather than by hand. The machine used is similar to those used by the shrirmp industry on the gulf of Mexico and in the State of Washington. The new cannery also differs from all other shrimp plants' processed product rather than as a fresh or frozen one.

Future N.F.I. Conventions

The locations and dates of future conventions of the National Fisheries Institute are listed below, including the headquarters hotel:

1958 Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco April 18-23

1959 Commodore Hotel, New York City April 10-15

1960 Fontainbleau, Miami Beach, Florida April 29-May 4

1961 Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C. April 14-19

Front Cover Picture

"Ring up added sales and profits by tying in with National Tuna Week, October 31-November 9," says Actress Jann Darlyn. By featuring tuna, food stores can capitalize on a nation-wide advertising, merchandising and publicity drive. The full-scale publicity campaign will alert consumers to National Tuna Week via newspapers, magazines, radio and television on a broad front.

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CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION

Pending on Fisheries

The first session of the 85th Congress adjourned August 30, 1957, and the second session will be convened January 7, 1958. All legislation before either the Senate or House will remain in its status as of adjournment and will be subject to further consideration upon the convening of the second session. Here is a summary of selected legislation of main interest to the fish canning industry.

Anti-Dumping Act

H.R. 6006, to amend the Antidumping Act of 1921 so as to facilitate determinations under the Act, was passed by the House August 29 and is pending before the Senate Finance Committee.

Fisheries Loan Fund

S. 2720, to increase the loan fund authorization from $10 million to $13 million, was passed by the Senate and is pending before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Fishermen's Protective Act

S. 1483, to broaden protection of fishermen on the high seas, was reported by the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, and a companion bill, H.R. 5526, with amendment, was reported by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. However, in the Senate the bill was objected to and passed over twice on the call of the calendar and also was laid aside without a vote on another occasion.

North Pacific Fisheries Act

P.L. 85-114 (S. 2212 signed July 24) extends the area of federal control over net fishing of salmon and certain other fish.

Organization for Trade Cooperation

Bills to authorize U.S. participation in the OTC, which is intended primarily to provide permanent arrangements for the administration of the GATT, were introduced and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Sockeye Salmon Fishery Act

P.L. 85-102 (S. 1806 signed July 11) amends the Sockeye Salmon Fishery Act of 1947 so as to extend regulatory authority of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission to include pink salmon.

Statehood

S. 49, providing statehood for Alaska, and S. 50, providing statehood for Hawaii, were reported by the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee just prior to adjournment. H.R. 7999, providing statehood for Alaska, was reported by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in June.

Trade Agreements Act

S. 1796, to provide that the findings of the Tariff Commission in escape clause investigations shall be final unless disapproved by a constitutional majority of either house of Congress within 60 days, was introduced by Senator Watkins (Utah) and referred to the Senate Finance Committee. The Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1955 (H.R. 1) is to expire next June 30.

Tuna Import Act

A number of bills to establish import quotas on both frozen and canned tuna were introduced and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and to the Senate Finance Committee.

Wage-Hour

S. 1853, which includes a proposal to eliminate the overtime exemption for fish canners contained in section 13 (b) (4) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, was approved by a Senate Labor Subcommittee under Senator Kennedy (Mass.). The bill was considered in executive session by the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee a number of times. House bills to extend coverage were considered by a House Labor Subcommittee.

Gulf and Caribbean Institute

The 10th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute will be held at the Empress Hotel, Miami Beach, from November 11 to 15. Concurrent meetings will also be held by the Shrimp Association of the Americas and the Southeastern Fisheries Association, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will hold a Southern Section meeting at the same time.

Anyone interested in fish or fisheries is welcome to attend these meetings. Reservations may be made through the hotel or by writing to The Marine Laboratory, University of Miami, Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami 49, Florida.

Japanese Study Brazil Fishery Resources

The survey of the fishery resources off the coast of Brazil, under way since the latter part of December, 1956 by the Japanese research ship *Toko Maru*, has resulted in the conclusion that a daily catch of 10-15 metric tons of tuna is possible without depleting the resource. The Japanese research ship was invited to conduct a survey of Brazilian fisheries resources by the government of Brazil. The *Toko Maru* is a well equipped vessel of 1,100 tons with a capacity of 200 tons of frozen fish, a crew of 54 and 8 Japanese scientists.

The explorations of the *Toko Maru* were first carried out off the southern part of Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul) where 67 oceanographic stations were made. No tuna were found in this area. Later the vessel fished in the waters off the State of Rio de Janeiro for species of tuna. One species of tuna was found off Cabo Frio. From this area, the vessel sailed further north to Maceio and up to the mouth of the Amazon River, where another species of tuna was found.

The survey by the Japanese scientists confirms the results of previous surveys made by two Brazilian specialists in 1938, points out a recent dispatch from the U. S. Embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

Great Britain's Policies

Great Britain's policies in regard to territorial waters, fishery limits, and fisheries conservation will be defined more precisely early in 1958 at the World Conference on the Law of the Sea, which is to be held at Geneva.

There is some speculation as to what line the United Kingdom will take but best opinion is that it will continue to support the old three-mile limit for territorial waters as a general policy without, however, contradicting any particular agreements with individual countries made in recent years.

What's New or Different

Naval Architect Services

L. K. Homyer, naval architect, formerly of Washington, D. C., has opened an office in the Oporto Malaga Building, 503 32nd Street, New port Harbor, California. Prior to coming to California he was chief engineer to a prominent company of naval architects and reinforced plastics engineers.

His experience includes boats and ships of all types and sizes for commercial and military use. Under a recent government contract to the Navy he designed an 80-foot patrol craft of reinforced plastic.

Mr. Homyer believes the fishing fleets could with advantage use reinforced plastics in the boats, and his office will be pleased to consult on this and other boat problems with fleet operators, builders and repair activities.

FAO Plan Meeting on Fishing Costs

An international meeting on costs and earnings in fishing is being planned by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy.

"The meeting will be of direct interest to fisherman, fishing boat owners, processors and others in the world's fishing industries, as well as to governments and organizations concerned with fisheries," stated Mr. F. E. Popper, Chief of the Economics and Statistics Branch, FAO Fisheries Division.

The great part played today by governments in the maintenance and development of fishing industries, such as through subsidies, credit schemes, tax and duty remissions, price support and marketing schemes, and many others, has made studies of costs and earnings of paramount importance.

"The industry is also particularly interested in such studies as a basis for negotiation of contract prices, share agreements, minimum and maximum prices, and other business," said Mr. Popper.

It is expected that the meeting will last a week and will probably take place in London in the autumn of 1958.

Transval Vibrator

A new, easy to install, low cost transistorized replacement for vibrators in two-way mobile radio communications equipment is now being produced by Transval Engineering Corporation, 10401 Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, California.

Operators of two-way mobile radio equipment point out that the interruption of service due to vibrator failure is the most recurring and costly single problem experienced.

The Transval vibrator supply replacement is unique in that it has the extra capacity necessary to operate both the transmitter and receiver units. Ths unit is designed for 12 volt systems and is capable of switching over 9 amps DC and will operate on both positive and negative sources. The vibrator replacement is completely transistorized and has no moving parts.

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Scene of the 10th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute will be Miami Beach, Florida, November 11 to 15. It is sponsored by The Marine Laboratory of the University of Miami, and supported by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Shrimp Association of the Americas, the Southeastern Fisheries Association and other organizations.

The Institute was started in 1948 by The Marine Laboratory to bring together fishery scientists and administrators with the fishing industry. This year's program will include an organization recently formed to test the feasibility of shrimp culture in the United States, also the possibility of new fishing grounds.

The shark fisheries of the west coast of Mexico, turtle fishing in the Cayman Islands, the fisheries of Puerto Rico and of Honduras, and the prospects of Caribbean fisheries in general are among the topics scheduled for the Caribbean Session.

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute has no formal membership. Anyone interested in the sport and commercial fisheries is welcome to attend meetings and information may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, The Marine Laboratory, University of Miami, Coral Gables 34, Florida.

Fish Catch Sinks Three Boats

Three little fishing boats sank off the west coast of South Africa, near Capetown, reportedly through the sheer weight of fish. The men were rescued. The fishing season, the best in four years, has been so good that boats were landing up to 250 tons of mackerel and sardines a night.

No Buyers for Moroccan Sardines

Hundreds of tons of sardines were thrown back into the sea in Morocco when fishermen recently could not find buyers. The byproducts factories which buy the fish not taken by the canners offered too low a price, saying they were overloaded, and the fishermen preferred to throw the fish back.

KAAR Announces New Broadcast Tuner for Marine Service

For boats equipped with radio-telephone equipment but no facilities for broadcast reception, a new model designated as the "Neptuner" has been introduced.

It will provide broadcast entertainment and background music for the boat owner, while still maintaining monitor service on the marine frequencies.

It can be mounted in any convenient position, adjacent to or remote from the radio-telephone. It uses the radio-telephone loud speaker and amplifier. Connections are made through a simple plug-in arrangement. Full information from Kaar Engineering Corp., 2995 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, California.

Joint Tuna Ad Program In Doubt

Negotiations for a joint U.S.-Japanese advertising campaign to promote canned tuna in the United States have been dealt a severe blow by the withdrawal of one of the major U.S. canners, states the chairman of the American industry group.

M. J. Gorby, president, California Marine Curing & Packing Co., Terminal Island, Calif., admitted that talks with the Japanese will be seriously affected by the decision of the Van Camp Sea Food Company to pull out of the program. However, Gorby added he had not given up hope for the project, declaring:

"There is still substantial support from the American industry for a joint promotion campaign with the Japanese. While I regret the action by Van Camp, I strongly believe in the merits of the program and earnestly hope that our efforts will be successful."

Negotiations to work out the program will be continued, he stated. Under the proposed program, the U.S. and Japanese tuna industries would have contributed approximately $700,000 to promote the sale of canned tuna in this country.

The Frozen Tuna Industry

(Continued from Page 7)

for various reasons to import loins and disks. The U.S. cannery laborers, especially the labor unions in Southern California, were from the first strongly opposed to the import of loins. They contended that if such loins and disks should become imported in large quantities to replace rounds, the result would be less work for them and more unemployment.

However, the situation changes when it pertains to areas other than California. For example, in the Northwestern areas, such as Seattle where the principal manufactured article is canned salmon, nearly all of these factories have had to close down during the off season. During such shutdown periods, if purchases were to be made of round or loin tuna from Japan, the workers would be able to continue working and it would be more profitable for the manufacturers. The situation is the same for the eastern canners principally canning fruits.

Under these various circumstances, Japanese trade circles have been strictly prohibiting the exports of loin and disk tuna to California. Their main customers have been in the Northwestern and Eastern states and Puerto Rico.

However, this would be contested by the California packers who are unable to make purchases of loin and disk tuna. Thus, they would have to pay more for high labor costs as compared to the packers in the other areas who would benefit from the imports of loin and disk tuna in carrying out the so-called spare time work in the manufacturing of canned tuna. In other words, in spite of the principal product of the California packers being tuna, the result would be that they would be taken in by the salmon and fruit packers of the other areas. Thus the California canners and laborers favor a restriction movement against imports of Japanese loins and disks.

Price Cut and Other Factors

Unfortunately and at a very bad time the Japanese trade circles unofficially decided to restrict loin and disk tuna under the Export Control Law identical with the round albacore, and to establish an agreed price to conform to prevailing prices.

The above news, circulated in California, created great consternation. The fact that the agreed price was decreased as much as $100 a ton was charged by California packers as only adding cheap Japanese labor on to the $270 a ton FOB check price for round frozen albacore. When seen from this angle the price of rounds is comparatively high. The fact that the yellowfin computation ratio of 1 to 1 was made, clearly indicated that the plan openly favored loins. The above factors greatly irritated the Californians who suddenly began to increase their voices to restrict imports of loins.

Now California is a precious customer of Japanese round albacore and if the export of rounds, because of the fracas concerning loins, should be stopped, then both capital and interest will be lost.

Thus, the Japanese tuna industry hastily retreated and rejected the previous plan. However, this may develop into a state of affairs where cancellation of contracts may really be made. Under such circumstances the opinion of the industry in Japan has become divided. Following are some views expressed by the industry:

1. There is a necessity to take voluntary restrictive measures in prohibiting loin exports.

2. To raise agreed prices still further, and this may become settled only by bringing it up to the former price level of $700 per ton.

3. Even at the present agreed price of $650 a ton for albacore loins, the Northwestern canners are not buying, saying it is too high. Therefore, even at the present level of prices, it is believed that the fruits of self discipline cannot be attained.

Each theory has its own merits and demerits, and a serious red signal is being raised against loin exports to the U.S.

Although general opinion stresses the need to start concrete plans to cope with this situation, it would be difficult to predict what kind of plan would be forthcoming. As loins and disks may become the hope of the frozen tuna industry, careful measures should be considered. Various areas in the U.S. are equipping themselves to handle Japanese loins and disks, and after next year they are scheduled to go into full operation. We must make an effort to gain the confidence of the Californians and prepare for developments in the future. *

Art of Fishing Aided by Electronics

Despite the use of the most modern fishing aids such as depth finders, Loran, radar and fishfinders, the "fishing knowledge, experience and intelligence" of skippers and crews remain key factors in fishing, states Dayton L. Alverson, fisheries biologist, Washington State Department of Fisheries, in a paper he is presenting to the International Fishing Gear Congress at Hamburg, Germany.

The Congress is being convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy, October 7 to 12. It will be attended by several hundred delegates from all parts of the world. More than 100 papers will be presented by fishing gear experts.

Mr. Alverson's paper deals with the trends in methods and gear used in trawling on the West Coast of the United States. He explains the use of various electronic devices, which have greatly influenced Pacific Coast fishing, especially since World War II. In fact, these have become so important to the fishermen, says Mr. Alverson, that reliance on depth recorders, for example, is so complete "that the failure of the echo-sounder" means a return to port for most trawlers.

The overall effect of the use of electronic devices has been to increase the range, scope and efficiency of Pacific Coast commercial fishing.

Maine Lobster in S.F. Bay

A barnacled old Maine lobster, caught in San Francisco Bay a few blocks north of Fisherman's Wharf, has fisheries men puzzled.

It shouldn't have been there. The last recorded planting of Eastern lobsters was in 1888, and that didn't take, according to all reports.

But William Ashton of San Francisco insists he caught this one in an ordinary sport fisherman's crab trap. The lobster, on display for a while, at Snow's Aquarium at the wharf, is about 24 inches long and weighs five to seven pounds . . . sizeable specimen, even by Down East standards.

Barnacles and other marine parasites on the shell might have shown whether this was a genuine native son. But all those examined proved types common to both coasts. Biologists noted, however, that the lobster was apparently an old one, and in poor condition, indicative of a long hard struggle against an environment not really suited to its kind.

Although its survival, or even descent, from the plant of 1888 is thought unlikely, there is a possibility that it could have escaped at sometime from a more recent shipment of Eastern lobsters brought in by one of the restaurants around the wharf.

Japanese Vessels Deliver Frozen Tuna to Italian Ports

According to a report published in an Italian fisheries trade journal, a Japanese tuna vessel delivered frozen tuna to the Italian port of Venice in mid-1957. The fish were caught by the Japanese vessel in the Indian Ocean. A number of contracts have been signed and others are in negotiation state, for deliveries of full loads of frozen tuna in October and November 1957 at Genoa, Leghorn, Naples and Bari.

Two Japanese fishing vessels will make the deliveries. One is operated by a Tokyo fishing firm and the other by an Osaka fishing firm.

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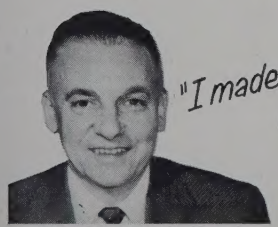

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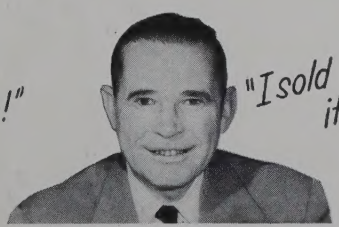

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